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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends UNAVEM II until 8 February 1995 to enable it to monitor cease-fire established by Lusaka Protocol; welcomes Secretary-General's decision to proceed with restoration of Mission to previous strength.

+ General Assembly launches International Decade of Indigenous People; Assembly President stresses importance of international political and economic cooperation in addressing problems faced by indigenous groups.

+ UNPROFOR reports several attacks against peace-keepers in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bosnian Serbs give clearance for UNHCR aid convoy to proceed to Bihac.

+ Special Representative for Mozambique says installation of Parliament and inauguration of President in Maputo represent major success for United Nations; ONUMOZ mandate to end formally tomorrow, but residual operations to continue until end of January.

+ States must maintain momentum created by Naples Conference on Transnational Organized Crime, Italy tells Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) until 8 February 1995 to enable the Mission to monitor the cease-fire established by the Lusaka Protocol. The Council commended the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) for signing the Protocol, and urged them to fully respect the cease-fire which entered into effect on 22 November. It expressed deep concern at reports of renewed clashes in the country, which caused suffering to the civilian population, and might jeopardize the successful implementation of the Protocol and hamper the effective discharge of UNAVEM II's mandate.

By unanimously adopting resolution 966 (1994), the Council welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to proceed with the restoration of UNAVEM II to its previous strength. The actual enlargement would depend on the strict observance by the parties of the effective cease-fire and on the provision by them of satisfactory guarantees regarding the safety and security of United Nations personnel. The Council encouraged the Secretary-General to continue to deploy personnel to the countryside, in order to enhance the Mission's verification capabilities and as an extra confidence-building measure.

The Council noted the Secretary-General's intention to report on the possible mandate for a new United Nations operation in Angola based on his assessment of the circumstances that warranted that, including the maintenance of the cease-fire. The report should detail his efforts to identify potential troop-contributing countries, the objectives and financial aspects of such an operation, and progress towards a status-of-forces agreement with the Angolan Government. The Council said it would review the United Nations role in Angola by 8 February 1995 at the latest, in the light of that report.

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The General Assembly today launched the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1994-2004) at a special meeting. Assembly President Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire) said indigenous people's efforts to preserve their identity must be recognized within the context of international political and economic cooperation. The international community, especially the United Nations, was duty bound to promote efforts to maintain human diversity, as it worked for consensus on such issues as peace, security and human rights. The programme of action for the Decade was a framework for cooperation in addressing the problems faced by indigenous peoples, he added.

The National Secretary for Indigenous and Ethnic Minorities Affairs of Ecuador, Luis Felipe Duchicela, said empty speeches and political manipulation were no longer acceptable responses to the many risks which indigenous peoples faced on a daily basis. "The world has to be aware that the indigenous peoples are not willing to tolerate one more day of oblivion, of deceit, and lack of respect for our identity, our values, our history, our dignity", he stressed.

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United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) peace-keepers in Bosnia and Herzegovina came under attack in six separate incidents in the past 24 hours, according to UNPROFOR Radio in Zagreb. In Goradze, a British soldier on foot patrol was hit by a bullet, resulting in the loss of a finger. A Ukrainian patrol and an UNPROFOR observation post also came under fire in Gorazde. In Sector South-West, two spanish UNPROFOR soldiers were slightly injured after coming under indirect fire from Bosnian Serb positions.

UNPROFOR reported that the humanitarian aid situation remained critical in many parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, the authorities in Knin

convoy to proceed through to Bihac. The convoy, which left Zagreb this morning with 100 tonnes of food, would be the first into the Bihac pocket since 1 October. Meanwhile, aid convoys have arrived in Zepa, Srebrenica and Gorazde.

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Mozambique's new Parliament was installed in Maputo today, and Joachim Chissano will be inaugurated as President tomorrow, following the country's first multi-party elections in October. The mandate of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) will thus formally come to an end at midnight tomorrow. However, ONUMOZ will continue to carry out residual functions until it is fully shut down at the end of January.

The United Nations created ONUMOZ in 1992, and brokered a cease-fire with a view to the holding of democratic elections. The visit of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to Mozambique last October resulted in an agreement by all parties on the formation of an Electoral Commission and on the demobilization of forces, according to Special Representative Aldo Ajello. That breakthrough created the momentum for peace which led to the elections and democracy in Mozambique.

Mr. Ajello said the installation of the Parliament and the inauguration of Mr. Chissano as President represented a major achievement in the facilitation of democratization and peace by the United Nations. The elections proved that peace could not be imposed in a situation where there was no will to achieve it. The success in Mozambique also represented a victory for a policy of flexibility in dealing with the various protagonists, he added.

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The Naples Conference on Transnational Organized Crime was a fundamental step towards more incisive action against organized crime, Italian Justice Minister Alfredo Biondi told the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) today. As the Committe continued its consideration of crime prevention and criminal justice, he noted that the Declaration and Global Action Plan adopted by the Conference last month indicated measures each State must take to deal with the problem. He underlined the need to reconcile national laws, so that there would be no advantage for criminal groups in transferring their activities across borders.

The representative of Uganda, host country of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, said that Institute played a crucial role in the fight against crime in Africa. However, it was in a precarious financial situation and its survival was at stake because of the economic difficulties facing most African countries. He appealed to the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to continue providing financial assistance to the Institute.